

Rhinoceros & Tiger Conservation Fund



Rhinos and tigers are magnificent creatures: big, powerful, and charismatic. Unfortunately, these same qualities make

them popular targets; rhino and tiger body parts are in high demand on the global black market. Tiger organs and bones and rhino horns are used in Asian medicines, which are sold to consumers who believe these animal products convey strength, health and virility. The tiger's beautiful orange pelt commands a high price. The illegal trade in animal parts is a profitable business and the demand for these products creates an ongoing temptation for poachers. Rhinos and tigers also fall victim to poachers' snares, set to trap other animals for bushmeat or trophies.

In addition to poaching for profit, tigers are killed by local villagers who fear attacks on humans or livestock. As human populations encroach further into the habitats of wild animals, the resulting conflict poses a serious threat to both human and animal safety.

Wild tigers, once abundant throughout Asia, now live in small fragmented

groups, mostly in protected forests, refuges, and national parks and their corridors. Experts estimate that more than 500 tigers are killed each year. Recent surveys indicate the South China tiger may have become extinct in the wild, with only 47 remaining alive in China's zoos. Sadly there are fewer tigers in the wild now than there are in captivity.

Wild rhinos can still be found in parts of Asia and Africa, but they too live in small fragmented populations which may not be viable (due to lack of breeding opportunities and risk of random events or disease). The Javan rhino still lives in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park (27-44 individuals), but the last known individual of the Vietnamese subspecies of this rhino was poached in April 2010.

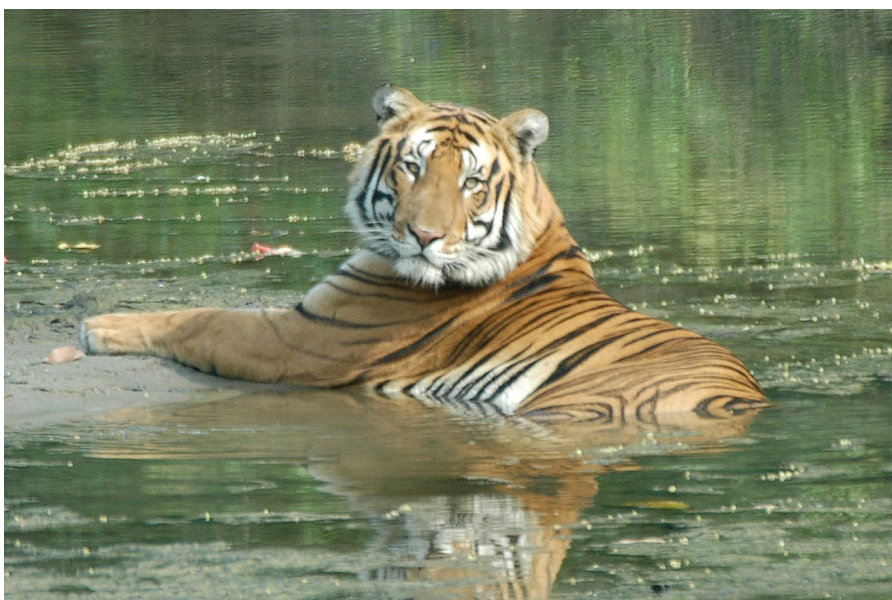
Before 1900, hundreds of thousands of black rhinos occurred throughout most of sub-Saharan Africa, but between 1970 and 1992, rhino populations declined 96%. Black rhinos went extinct in many range states, and by 1992, only 2300 individuals survived in seven countries.

Increased security and greater anti-poaching efforts have led to increases

in some populations over the past decade. Recovery of Africa's white rhino demonstrates the benefits of strong law enforcement and conservation management. Decimated by hunting, white rhinos nearly became extinct with only about 100 surviving in the wild. Now, with protection and successful management, the subspecies has increased to more than 20,000 and is the most abundant of all rhinos.

However, a recent resurgence in poaching threatens to reverse these successes. South Africa lost 668 rhinos to poaching in 2012 and 919 in the first months of 2013. If poaching continues to skyrocket, rhino populations will once again be at risk of extinction.

In 1994, the U.S. Congress passed a law to establish the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. Grants are awarded from this fund for anti-poaching programs, habitat and ecosystem management, development of nature reserves, wildlife surveys and monitoring, management of human-wildlife conflict, public awareness campaigns and other conservation efforts related to rhino and tiger survival. With this assistance there is hope that rhinos and tigers will return to healthy numbers.



Above: Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*) *relaxes in Assam, India.*

Credit: Aaranyak

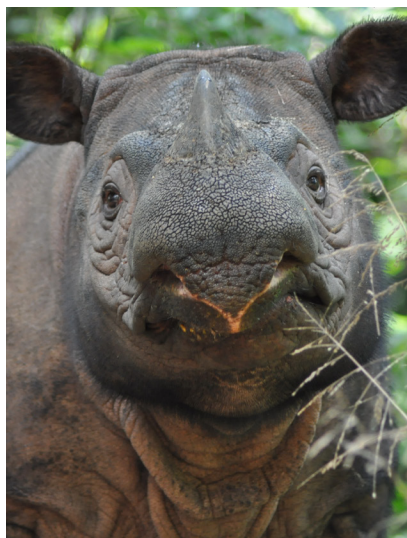
Below: Southern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) *is darted during veterinary check in Namibia.*

Credit: Michelle Gadd/USFWS



In 2013, the Wildlife Without Borders program funded 49 projects from the Rhinoceros & Tiger Conservation Fund totaling nearly \$2.6 million, which was leveraged by nearly \$3.5 million in matching and in-kind funds. These funds supported innovative conservation projects in 15 countries, including:

- In collaboration with FREELAND Foundation, decrease consumption of ivory, rhino horn, tigers, pangolins and other endangered wildlife in Thailand, Vietnam and China by targeting government decision-makers, young people, and the business sector through awareness campaigns. These include public service announcements on national television and billboards and partnership-building with leading online marketplaces directed at banning illegal wildlife sales from their websites.
- Together with Global Tiger Forum, develop a cadre of trained wildlife managers and field personnel across the tiger range states by providing training at the Wildlife Institute of India. The institute offers three-month certificate or ten-month diploma programs in wildlife management.
- In partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society, increase action taken by the Government of Vietnam to fight illegal wildlife trade across the Vietnam-China border. This will be done by facilitating central and provincial level inter-agency communication and coordination, enhancing communications and coordination between relevant agencies in Guangxi (China) and Quang Ninh (Vietnam) province, and generating domestic and international media coverage that supports prevention and suppression of transnational wildlife crimes.
- With support to Fauna and Flora International, build institutional capacity at the provincial and district level for improved tiger conservation in Aceh, Indonesia. This will be done through improved patrolling, by developing a tiger crime strategy with the Aceh police, and by improving law enforcement and emergency responses to tiger incidents.
- In partnership with the Frankfurt Zoological Society/Gzimek's Help for Threatened Wildlife, Inc., restart the rhino monitoring program in Selous Game Reserve in Tanzania. This includes supporting anti-poaching boat and ground patrols and the rehabilitation of a ranger post.
- In collaboration with Wildlife ACT Fund Trust, support the running expenses of a community-led initiative to reintroduce southern black rhinos in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Activities supported include daily rhino monitoring



Critically endangered Sumatran rhino
(*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*).
Credit: International Rhino Foundation

patrols, training and mentorship of future rhino monitors from the local community, running education day camps for school children, and conducting outreach with adults living in neighboring communities.

- In partnership with Save the Rhino International, support the capture, translocation and release of a founder population of eastern black rhinos onto a newly approved conservancy in Kenya.
- Together with the International Rhino Foundation, continue support for a second workshop on wildlife law to improve the prosecution rate in Zimbabwe for crimes against rhinos and other wildlife.



Critically endangered Sumatran tiger
(*Panthera tigris sumatrae*) is filmed in the forests of Indonesia.

Credit: Fauna and Flora International

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Rhinoceros & Tiger Conservation Funding from 2006 through 2013	
Total Number of Grant Proposals Received	527
Total Number of Grants Awarded	287
Total Funds Distributed through Grants	\$18,420,551*
Total Matching/In-kind Funds Leveraged by Grants	\$28,939,671

*Amount includes funds from the Save Vanishing Species Stamp